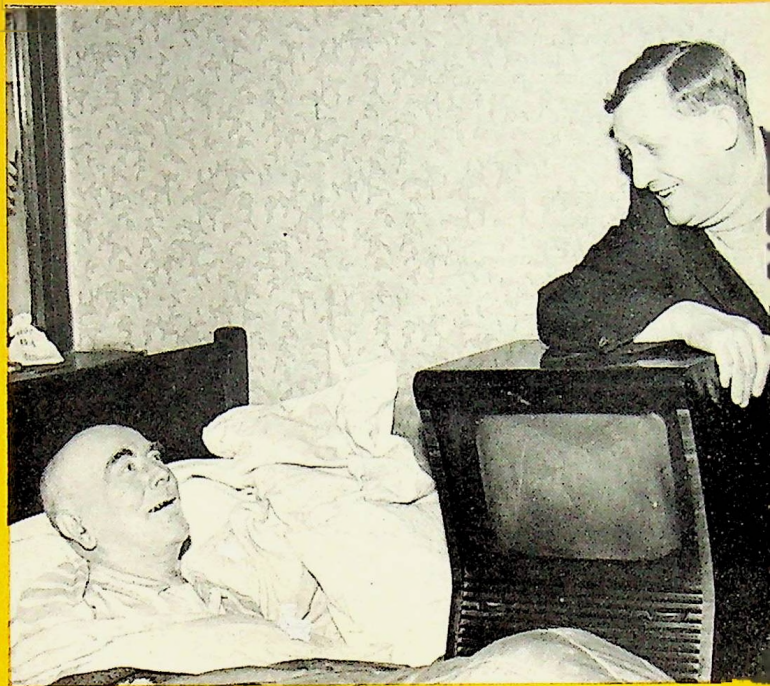


# TOG H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

FEBRUARY 1961



PUBLISHED BY TOG H AT FIFTEEN  
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NINEPENCE

## ***Index***

The Index for Volume XXXVIII is now available. Readers wishing to obtain copies are invited to send a stamped, addressed envelope (2d.) to the Editorial Office.

## ***Carousel***

The musical play, CAROUSEL (the sixth performance for Toc H funds) by the STOCK EXCHANGE DRAMATIC & OPERATIC SOCIETY, is being given at the SCALA THEATRE, London, on Tuesday, February 14th, at 7.30 p.m. to furnish a room in the new Mark III. For any remaining seats write or ring Ken Rogers, 15 Trinity Square, E.C.3. (ROYal 0472).

## ***'Focus on Toc H'***

A further photographic competition, open to all JOURNAL readers, is being held this year. The pictures should portray some aspect of Toc H—and there are separate sections for both black-and-white prints and colour transparencies. The type of camera used is of little importance and pictures taken with a simple box-camera stand an equal chance of success with those produced with the latest 'all-in' models.

## ***Advertisers***

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

## ***Ourselves***

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year. N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

# TOC H JOURNAL



FEBRUARY 1961

Letters and articles are welcomed and are  
printed as individual points of view only

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**COVER PICTURE:** A surprise for Mr. Charles Forsythe, bedridden for three years, when presented with a television set, the gift of North Ormesby Branch.

*Photograph by courtesy of Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough*

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 15 TRINITY SQ  
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# IN AND OUT

## notes & comment

### **Toc H and the Law-breaker**

AN INCREASING NUMBER OF TOC H MEMBERS ARE lending a hand, in one way or another, to men and boys in prisons and borstals or with their after-care. Others may feel a concern and a responsibility but are uncertain as to what, if anything, they can do. All of these within range of London will be interested and encouraged to know that a Conference on "Toc H and the Law-breaker" is to be held at Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, Tower Hill, London, E.C.3, on Thursday, March 23, at 6.30 p.m., when the chief speaker will be Mr. DUNCAN FAIRN, Chief Director of Prison Administration. R. L. BRADLEY, ex-Director of Borstal Administration and now a member of the Toc H Central Executive, will be in the chair. In order to ensure that the best possible use is made of this opportunity, admission will be by ticket (free) for which early application should be made to Alec Churcher at Toc H Headquarters.

### **The New English Bible**

THIS YEAR SEES THE THREE HUNDRED AND fiftieth anniversary of the Authorised Version of the Bible. The work of its forty-seven compilers occupied three and a half years and they were fortunate to live at a time when common men spoke Elizabethan prose without knowing it. But in the ensuing centuries many changes have taken place in our language, and words which at one time made truth sharp and clear, may well have come to obscure it. The need for a new translation of the Bible was first voiced by the Church of Scotland. The General Assembly, meeting in May, 1946, discussed the difficulty of presenting Christianity to a generation many of whom, having grown up outside the Church, do not understand its language. The Assembly shared its concern with other Churches and found immediate response which resulted in the work of producing an entirely new translation of the whole Bible being undertaken by a joint committee of the Churches of the British Isles (other than the Roman Catholics who already have their own modern version), under the Chairmanship of the Bishop of Winchester. The first part of their labours, a translation of the New Testament, will be published by the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses next month.

## **Towards Unity**

A PLAN TO SECURE UNITY OF UNDERSTANDING and action between the 60 million members of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches throughout the world has been formulated by the Presbyterian World Alliance and the International Congregational Council. The two organisations have announced the findings of a recent ten-member commission in a joint statement that reaffirms the importance of the rediscovery of the central truths of the Christian faith which happened at the Reformation. But it also recognises that a new atmosphere is developing in questions of Church unity which every Church must note. It welcomes the moves now being made in India, Australia, Canada and Britain to draw Churches of different traditions together. In England, discussions between the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Union are to open again. At present the two Churches are "in communion" but not formally united.

## **Gangs, Groups and Clubs**

THIS IS THE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF THE LECTURE given last October by Peter Kuenstler, formerly Vice-Head of Oxford House in Bethnal Green, now Research Fellow in Youth Work, University of Bristol. Mr. Kuenstler makes the point that hooliganism is no new phenomenon among youngsters and has some interesting suggestions to make as to how to make contact with the "unclub-bables". Prints of it, one shilling each, post free, can and should be obtained from the N.A.B.C., 17 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

## **Mark Boilers**

HAVING OURSELVES EXPERIENCED DEEP PANGS of anxiety over recalcitrant Mark boilers, warm sympathy was stirred by the tale, related in the winter issue of *On The Mark*, of how one Marksman came to qualify for the Mark VI annual award of 'Host of the Year, 1960'. "Nelson Chen, from Hong Kong via Mark XI, Leicester, won his award for a superb performance on host duty one Saturday evening. The old coke-fired boiler, for the hot water system, began to leak at one of the flanges. The leaking hot water began to turn the lagging to sludge and it was decided to let the boilers go out. Nelson, on 'host' that night, was so fascinated by the leaking boiler that he forgot to attend to the Aga cookers in the kitchen and the stove in the lounge. We came down on Sunday morning to find every fire in the house out! John Morris coined the phrase "the Nelson touch". Nelson, however, took all the leg-pulling in good heart. It is pleasing to add that neither Nelson nor any other Marksman at Mark VI will be able to let the boiler out again, for the Mark has now gone over to automatic oil-fired heating."

# St. Luke in Somerset

P. B. CLAYTON

An exuberant account of some of the happenings during a week-end when the Founder Padre attended the bestowal of the Freedom of Chard on a Toc H member

*When London town was burnt of old,  
It bothered Scotland Yard.  
They telephoned, and they were told  
That Chard remained just charred.*

(Extract from Tubby's Ode to Dr. Fawcus.)

RAY GEISE AND I have recently spent a week-end as representatives of Toc H Queensland and grateful guests of Her Worship the Mayor of Chard, and of the Corporation of the same old township, within the George Hotel.

We arrived by a westbound train, which moved like lightning out of Waterloo and pursued its headlong career as far as Salisbury after the manner of the 1890's, and there and then apparently was told that it was meant to be a local train. It thus repented of its former speed, dithered and halted at all wayside stations, slowly outpaced a hearse on the main road, and drifted on until it reached Chard Junction. Here, as the only passengers alighting, we found a civic car awaiting us.

Let me warn those who mean to persevere in this somewhat elusive narrative, that when you reach Chard Junction you are nearer Axminster than Chard, and there is another "George" in Axminster, no doubt a rival to the "George" we know; but do not imitate the local train and halt thereat, however late you are. Press on to Chard and find the "George" itself, with its black pillars set astride the pavement directly opposite the old Corn Market which has, through various magic operations, become the true town hall since Corn Law days. No doubt it serves its task as the Town Hall in all respects (save one) with great success. The one omission is no doubt regretted, and in the centuries that lie ahead it may conceivably be rectified. So far as we could gather, it still lacks a hall of any adequate dimensions: and thus, when we had deposited our gear in the true "George"



(not that at Axminster), we found ourselves escorted down the hill which forms the central thoroughfare of Chard, on either side of which, all the year round, there run two rival and pellucid streams. One of these flows into the Bristol Channel, the other makes perpetual contribution to Britain's main defence, the English Channel. Since both are flowing in the same direction for the time being down the Chard High Street, we found this puzzling, but no doubt it's true. Everything's true in Chard, and everyone.

We therefore stepped across the left-hand stream and found ourselves admitted to the handsome Congregational Chapel, the largest auditorium in Chard, which, with its gallery upon three sides, is credited with holding no less than seven hundred persons. Here, quietly and quickly, we were ushered into the foremost row below the rostrum, fronted on this occasion by a table flanked on the further side by handsome chairs. Scarce were we seated, when the well-tuned organ began to indicate in massive tones the imminent approach both of the Mayor and of the Aldermen and the Town Council. "The Queen" was sung. Everyone knew the tune. They evidently also liked the words. The Minister was then requested to uphold our task in prayer. This having been fulfilled in measured tones and with a certain natural eloquence, the Parish Clerk was called upon to read the Resolution of this day of days, announcing that an Honorary Freedom would now be conferred on Dr. Fawcus.

### **Beloved physician**

The Mayor then rose and feelingly explained the cumulative reasons for this tribute to the beloved physician in their midst, who had, it seemed, for more than forty years fulfilled, regardless of the wind and weather, and frequently without his legal fee, his quite unique professional career. On his retirement, some three thousand persons had placed their names upon a public plea that his life-work among them should receive the highest recognition which it was in the province of this ancient and honourable Corporation to bestow. They sent this huge Petition to Her Worship. When the discourse had reached this point, the Mayor laid hands upon a parchment roll ready upon the table; and this was, with the united applause of the whole assembly, placed in the hands of its recipient.

Dr. Fawcus, having duly signed the Roll for the first time

as Freeman of the Borough, was invited to address the throng. He did so in the simplest of all ways, chatting to each and all, as if alone. His speech thus bubbled with familiar scenes and small vignettes and homely incidents. We found ourselves admitted to the thoughts which well become the Christian doctor's life, and fragrant with troubles met and overcome, inspired by faith in God and love of man. So far as he permitted us to know whence all this came to be his working code, he told us that his true lifelong debt was to the name of Dr. John Stansfeld, who founded the Oxford Medical Mission. He went no further with this explanation, since time was pressing. Thus the meeting rose; and the main body, acting on instructions, loudly announced by the kind Minister that Dr. Fawcus had, as a working member of Toc H for many years in those parts, arranged that the entire local Toc H Branch should have a cup of tea prepared and ready for all who wished and went into their adjoining hut.

Meanwhile, the Mayor and Aldermen and Council rose and receded, to divest themselves of shining emblems and their civic gowns. Led by the Mace, they went to the Town Hall, where in due course some thirty chosen guests found themselves seated at a vast tea-table which Dr. Fawcus very shyly joined, having made certain that his Toc H Branch and all their guests were happily squeezed in. All round the walls of our auspicious tea-room the Mayors of Chard looked down upon the scene with approbation from their golden frames.

### At the 'George'

Your Queensland representatives were then permitted to unpack within the "George" until they were, in half an hour's time, duly conveyed within the Vicar's car—one of those cars which only starts downhill and has arthritis gnawing at its roots—to call upon the Gartons in their home. Here we were treated with consummate kindness by three generations of the Garton clan, until the car which only starts downhill conveyed us once more to the "George" Hotel. Here, with the largest dining-room prepared, some sixty citizens sat down to nothing less than a full three course banquet, followed by speeches made on every side, followed by votes of thanks to all concerned, followed by due dispersal to our homes.

Early on Sunday morning we awoke, and in due course two rival cars stood ready to take us down the hill and up



the street which curiously leads to the old town, which is surmounted by the Parish Church. Here quiet numbers came with Dr. Fawcus to greet their Risen Lord in thankfulness and to partake of His Most Holy Food.

### Forty years back

Then once more we returned, to have our breakfast in the same room where we had dined last night. We found a very solitary friend, who had indeed conveyed us to the Church, seated at breakfast on his own account. We ventured then to bring our table near to his own and learnt his name—Mr. W. Ashton Wright, that he had been himself in Poperinge forty years back, and knew the Old House well. His task had been conveying ammunition of a convincing character and weight to the 9.2 gun, one of our most formidable weapons, stationed in the neighbourhood of Brielen. I knew that 9.2 monster all too well. Smith-Gunner Charlie Payne of Portsea parish, who brought up from the Somme the kneeling figure of the carved monk from the ruins of Velu Church and carried it down from Brielen up to the hoploft where it stands today, had plainly handled, until the day he died, the ammunition which had been conveyed to the great gun by Ashton Wright's night work. And on this long-past link we made firm friends.

We invited our new friend, who had been sorely crippled upon active service, but none the less had followed his career in non-Marine Insurance under Lloyds, to come up that afternoon to the large District Gathering of Toc H.

Meanwhile we went together to Church, where I was due to preach the sermon in which I had the strictest of instructions from Dr. Fawcus not to mention him. He threatened to bombard me with a hassock. I was to talk about Toc H and to avoid all personal allusions. So I obeyed for five-and-twenty minutes, until lunch became the order of the day. Your two Australian representatives lunched at the Vicarage, and after that had the great privilege of conversation with Miss Wilkins, whose home was near. She was the right-hand of Nurse Cavell and was arrested with her, though reprieved. No need to say that we coveted her deeply to be the Patron Saint of the Women's Branch of Toc H in Chard, for which there were abundant candidates, though it had never hitherto been formed. Having then shut my eyes for a brief space upon a bed conveniently remote, kindly provided in the Vicarage, the Church clock struck the hour of 3 p.m., and

we discovered as we reached the hall—this time the Church hall—that the stairs were lined with members gathered both from far and near. Among them, Noel Mellish had himself managed to come across from South Petherton, and Colonel Bonham-Carter from Ilton—these by themselves were enough to make the feast. Each was induced to say some fruitful words. Then followed two attempts on Dr. Fawcus. The first was parried with a jest in season. He was then ultimately slowly persuaded to pay a further tribute to the name of Dr. Stansfeld as his inspiration. From that sole point we sought for more in vain. I therefore did my best to state the case for the creation of a central focus of Toc H in Chard for the whole district, radiating to include the study of and challenge to the young.

From this stage onwards Chard's Lamp was re-lit for Prayers: then the few women present went off to make our tea, which was brought in. For upwards of an hour upon the platform I did my best to interview all those who cared to come and have a talk with me, making what notes I could as to their names. We called on Dr. Fawcus in his home, and then we were taken back to our hotel to have supper.

After 8 p.m. within the lounge with Ashton Wright and Dr. Fawcus and the Vicar, we tried to analyse the whole week-end. The Vicar led our farewell prayers together. We sought our several beds with thankfulness. We all concurred in asking Ashton-Wright to pay some visits to old friends who had not come to the week-end. He himself had already been invited by some wise member of the Branch at Chard to be their guest on Wednesday evening next, and to become a member of Chard Branch. We felt that there was much that he could do in his spare time, and (driving his own car) to animate the Branches now at work nearby. The Vicar, Dr. Fawcus, and I therefore concurred in asking him to act, as having time which he could well devote to work of this kind in the neighbourhood. It is, of course, exceedingly important that such a step be duly authorised by Gilbert Francis and his Area Executive and finally confirmed by Toc H H.Q.

Guy Fawkes Day should be scrapped in Somerset, and Dr. Fawcus Day should take its place. Farewell to fireworks of the baser sort. Nay, let us rather side with Dr. Fawcus, whose habit it apparently has been to strip his own bed and his children's beds of extra blankets on November nights, and take them to his most non-paying patients!

# The Elder Brethren

*'With proud thanksgiving . . .'*

ADAMS.—On December 19, ALEC RICHARD ADAMS, aged 65, a member of Hoddesdon Branch. Elected 1.7.'20.

BARKS.—On December 6, THOMAS WILLIAM BARKS, aged 78, a member of Ipstones Branch. Elected 27.6.'29.

BOTTOMLEY.—On October 23, SAMUEL BOTTOMLEY, aged 75, an East Yorkshire Area member. Elected 18.12.'43.

BURT.—On November 14, JOSEPH JAMES WESTWOOD BURT, aged 72, a member of Wimborne Branch. Elected 27.4.'53.

FEAST.—On December 2, ARCHER CECIL FEAST, aged 60, the Chairman of Stevenage Branch. Elected 21.6.'51.

HURST.—On January 9, WILLIAM AUBREY HURST, O.B.E., J.P., in his 85th year. Honorary Treasurer of Toc H, 1924–1950, a Vice-President. Elected 1.1.'23.

HUXTABLE.—On December 1, FREDERICK THOMAS HUXTABLE, aged 54, a member of Hatherleigh Branch. Elected 7.1.'54.

JACK.—On November 21, JAMES JACK, aged 66, a member of Stroud Branch. Elected 31.12.'59.

JOHNSON.—On November 20, REGINALD ALBERT JOHNSON, aged 55, a member of Trelawny Branch. Elected 8.10.'36.

JUNIPER.—On December 1, BERTRAM JUNIPER, aged 51, a member of Derby Branch. Elected 3.8.'38.

MORRIS.—On November 30, ARTHUR HENRY MORRIS, aged 65, a member of Matson Branch. Elected 12.3.'52.

PEMBRIDGE.—On December 9, HARRY PERCY PEMBRIDGE, aged 80, a member of Malvern Branch. Elected 3.1.'40.

SIMPKIN.—On November 14, GEORGE SIMPKIN ('Antique'), aged 88, a founder member of Market Harborough Branch. Elected 5.1.'27.

TANQUERAY.—On December 12, the Rev. TRUMAN TANQUERAY, aged 72, headmaster of Ipswich School, 1933–50. East Anglian Area member, elected 1922.

TAYLOR.—In November, ROBERT TAYLOR ('Robin'), aged 56, formerly a Secretary of Pocklington Branch. Elected 16.10.'56.

WADE.—On December 14, CHARLES THEODORE WADE, aged 56, a member of Newsome Branch. Elected 24.5.'60.

WICKHAM.—On December 4, the Rev. EDWARD STEPHEN GLADSTONE WICKHAM, once of Knutsford Test School and All Hallows. Elected 1920.

## In Memoriam

### WILLIAM AUBREY HURST

William Hurst was the Hon. Treasurer of Toc H from 1924 until 1950. The story of his introduction to Toc H has been told by Tubby in *The Birth of a Movement*.

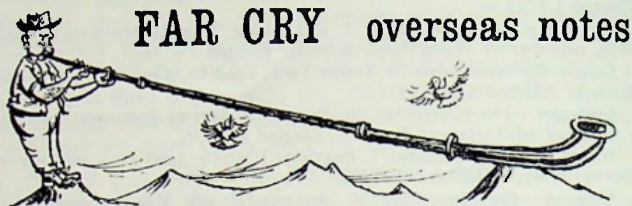


He was an industrious man, full of energy. As General Manager he was largely responsible for the growth of the Car & General Insurance Company. He was a Magistrate, Chairman of his local Bench for many years, Churchwarden, General Commissioner of the Inland Revenue and Chairman of a great London Club among many other activities. On his journeys abroad he never failed to visit Toc H Branches and to bring back home reports of their progress.

I knew him best from 1940 onwards as Chairman of the Toc H Finance Committee. Despite his many responsibilities which the war had increased, he would always make time to discuss the affairs of Toc H and give help and encouragement drawn from years of experience.

He was a friendly man. No man could give so much without winning friends in return. Toc H won a great friend in him.

J.H.



## FAR CRY overseas notes

GEOFF MARTIN

BORN IN CRISIS

**A** BRAHAM A. ORDIA, M.B.E., Chairman of Mainland Branch, Lagos, Nigeria, an energetic young man with a brilliant military career, has the enviable honour of introducing the seed of Toc H into the virgin soil of Nigeria. He planted it in Lagos in 1953 and by 1956 two Branches had firmly taken roots.

I first came in touch with Toc H in 1958 at Lagos when I was invited to the Lagos Mainland Branch by MARCUS ADESOYE. I was very much impressed by its ideals and since then have become an active member. When I was transferred to Ibadan, the capital of Western Nigeria, I decided to found the first regional group. In this onerous job, I received the unqualified help of the members of the Lagos Mainland Branch, 'ABE' ORDIA and the Regional Director of the British Council, Mr. HART.

After the usual preparations and campaigns the Inaugural



Members of Ibadan group

Meeting took place on March 7, 1959, at the British Council Hall, Ibadan, under the chairmanship of a Methodist clergyman. Quite a number turned up and everything went well until I motioned to the Chairman to deliver his inaugural address after I had outlined the aims, objects and ideals of the Movement. The gentleman had hardly spoken for five short minutes when it was obvious that he had actually been simmering under the wrong impression that Toc H is a secret society! Do you ask "And so what?" It is because some secret societies in Nigeria are so bad that many people naturally avoid them. In 1953 for instance eleven members of a certain Awo-Opa cult were executed for murdering a muslim preacher.

The Inaugural Chairman's arguments boiled down to these:—

1. A society is anti-Christ in whose ceremonies the expression "Jesus Christ" does not occupy a cardinal position. It is absent in Toc H ceremonies of Light and Initiation he said.
2. Toc H is a secret society because its meetings are held in the night and the ceremonies are conducted in a darkened room.
3. There must be some veiled object of worship, the significance of the Lamp as a symbol of Light notwithstanding.

Entangled in the mesh of this line of argument, he

worked himself up into a state that is better imagined than described, and he finally walked out of the meeting. That was a critical moment for me. Immediately I proposed a Mr. DENNIS A. BALOGUM to the chair from among the audience. He was unanimously approved. An ex-Adult Education Officer of the University Extra-mural department, but then an Industrial Relations Officer for a big tobacco factory in Ibadan, Mr. Balogum ably redeemed the occasion. Incidentally, Dennis is now the Chairman of the new Ibadan group.

The charged atmosphere was not released until I had dismissed the allegations in this manner:

1. His first proposition does not logically follow: the Scout Movement Investiture Ceremony contains no such expressions. Is it therefore anti-Christ? Moreover Toc H is liberal and undogmatic having no credal test of membership.
2. The test for secrecy does not depend on when meetings are held but in what manner and for what purpose. Anybody—friends, fiancées, wives, children—could take part in either of the two Toc H ceremonies: and the purpose of Toc H is clear.
3. Toc H is not a Movement enshrined in mystery and hypocrisy: and from 2 above it follows that it has nothing to hide. The *Lamp* actually stands for *Light*.

The young group born in crisis met up the challenge. Within three months of existence, it established worthwhile connections with the Cheshire Home (Oluyole), the Mission School for the deaf and dumb and visited a number of hospitals. A small committee of four was to report on "Survey of activities that will interest Toc H in Ibadan" when I left for the U.K. in August last year.

EDMUND A. ADEBOYE.

## TWO LUNCH-HOUR CLUBS

THE CAPE TOWN TOC H LUNCH CLUB offers a pleasant change on Tuesdays for men who normally eat their sandwiches in the office or patronise a city restaurant. It is not a *branch* of Toc H and about half of the regulars are not members. It does, however, provide a convenient medium for introducing men to the Movement. Here they chat with members of different Branches, pick up a little information about Toc H activities and catch, we hope, something of its spirit.




Programmes are varied. Recently there has been a presentation of the problem of mental illness, character studies from English village life, and a quiz against a team from the Sons of England Lunch Club. South Africa's racial problems also have their place. Two highlights were an analysis of the Law of Race Classification by Mr. J. M. HUGO, for many years Clerk of the House of Assembly, and a survey of present trends in racial policy by Professor N. J. J. OLIVIER, a prominent academician of the University of Stellenbosch. Here were two Afrikaners who displayed a deep understanding of the human aspects of the contemporary scene and a broad sympathy with the aspirations of the Coloured man: men, too, who were not afraid to express convictions contrary to the policy of their Government.

Not all the disabilities suffered by the Coloured man in South Africa stem directly from Government policy. Coloured folk were excluded from white restaurants long before an "apartheid" proclamation made it a penal offence for whites and non-whites to be served at table in the same place. There being but one non-white restaurant or tea-room in the city, the alternative for most office messengers or Coloured clerks was to spend the lunch-hour in the office or on the pavement.

The Mercury Club, then, which Toc H formed in Cape Town in August meets part of a long-standing need. Every Monday and Wednesday between thirty and forty of these messengers, ranging in age from seventeen to forty, gather in the crypt of St. John's, one of the oldest churches in the city, to play table-tennis or some other game, to see an occasional film, or simply to look through the periodicals and chat with their friends. The subscription of one shilling per month covers the price of a cup of tea. Members of the Toc H Committee of Management are getting to know the Club members and are gradually handing over responsibility to them. The intention is eventually to open the Club every day of the week.

On February 8, the Mayor of Cape Town is to perform an official opening of the Club. We hope by means of this civic ceremony to draw attention to the great need that exists and thus to stimulate interest to the end that more facilities on a much larger scale may be provided for the Coloured section.

OSSIE JOSEPH.



# MULTUM IN PARVO

## much in little



✽ The Rev. JOHN M. GINGELI has been appointed to the Staff and will be Area Padre in South-eastern London.

✽ 'Pi' MULUMBA-MUSOKE, the Field Assistant of Toc H in Uganda, will be in the U.K. from February to early June.

✽ DON MACKENZIE, the Hon. Commissioner of Toc H in South Africa, will be on holiday in the U.K. from May to August.

✽ The CENTRAL COUNCIL will hold its annual meeting in London on April 15 and 16.

✽ CENTRAL COUNCILLORS have been asked to collect and notify their notices of motion and their nominations of candidates for the Central Executive for the new year of office not later than February 28.

✽ The old MARK III in South Hackney, London, has now been demolished and a start made on the new building.

✽ In the new MARK III the furnishing of one of many rooms will be provided by the proceeds from 'Carousel' to be performed at the Scala Theatre, London, on February 14 by the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society.

✽ BRANCH MEMBERS are reminded that their wish to renew their membership for 1961 should have been recorded on their Branch Roll by January 15. If so, they have received their new membership cards.

✽ BRANCHES which have not selected their members to serve on the District Team for the new year of office should do so this month.

✽ THE CENTRAL AND AREA GUARDS OF THE LAMP will be meeting in conference in London and at Dor Knap in March, and in Derbyshire in April.

✽ NORTH WALES members go to Rhyl on March 25; NOTTS & DERBY to Bakewell on May 6, and EAST MIDLANDS to Peterborough on May 27.

✽ The LONDON SPORTS will be held in Battersea Park on June 10. This year the weather will permit.

✽ The LANGDALE CAMP Week in the Lake District, June 24 to July 1: apply J. R. Elliott, 15 Roman Avenue, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.

✽ The GROTON OLD HALL Weeks in Suffolk from August 12 to September 9: apply "Fergie" at Headquarters.

# Toc H London Rugby Club

## MILES QUEST

IT IS GOOD to be able to report that the Club is 'doing fine'. True, as with last season, the results have not been fabulously successful, but the manner of our losing has been a credit to us all—always to bigger, stronger and more experienced teams, with whom we have had good, hard games.

This experience of the opposition is obviously our biggest problem. There is no doubt that if we play teams of our own age group and experience we win handsomely. But once we play the lower Club sides, the Ex 'A' or the 'B', which have a large sprinkling of the older and more experienced player, we are at a distinct disadvantage. After years in the game, they have enough expertise to tip the balance against our youth and energy, in their favour. An instance of this was against Lloyds Bank 'B' at the beginning of this month. We lost 11-5. Not bad, we thought, It was not until after the game that we discovered that the Outside Centre was an ex-England International, who played against the Springboks on their last tour, and who played regularly for the 'Quins and Middlesex.

It was unfortunate that Frank Yates, our Captain, our only experienced player, was called away to the United States during November and has only played in four matches. We missed him very greatly.

However, despite the mud and the rain, the pools on the grounds and the slight incline on our own ground (at least, we have now got a ground), we have enjoyed our games. Three had been cancelled owing to the ground being unfit, and the remainder were played on pitches that did not seem to have heard of grass and in conditions that expertly combined the winds of the Arctic with the rains of the Indian Monsoon.

But the team is a happy and well spirited side (in every sense), and we wish we had had enough support to start an 'A' XV. But this, at the moment, is not to be. It will come eventually, but we must be content with turning out fifteen regularly until more support is forthcoming. The very fact that we are turning out fifteen regularly is an improvement on last year!



It is invidious to mention names, but few would deny that DAVID MILLER (Mark VII) is the outstanding forward—a very fine player indeed; and RICHARD MARRION (Mark II), in the most unsuitable conditions has shown talents at Fly Half and Inside Centre which any Club would be glad to foster. Indeed, if the conditions had been dryer, the combination of IAN SAUNDERS (Mark II) at Scrum Half—an excellent Captain in place of Frank—PETER SHEPHERD at Fly Half, and RICHARD MARRION at Inside Centre, would have been particularly deadly. But all the other players, good Clubmen all, we value most highly.

You know, there is something about playing for a new Club. There is a certain amount of excitement in trying to make it work; despite all the trials and disappointments, there is a satisfaction in knowing that our efforts all go into a common melting pot, as it were, and out of it comes a good, strong Club which should stand the rigours of time.

Why not join us in our efforts? We could do with your support playing, administrative or financial. Why not think about it? Meanwhile, here are some dates in 1961 to note:

Club Dance . . . . .	February 18.
Club Dinner . . . . .	March 25.
Club A.G.M. . . . .	May 5.

OXFORDSHIRE SEVEN-A-SIDES. Sunday, March 5, at Henley. We are entering two teams for this. Finals, we hope (!) on March 12, at Iffley Road, Oxford.

MIDDLESEX SEVENS. April 15 and 22. Ground to be announced. We are entering only one team for these.

TOC H MANCHESTER SEVENS. Saturday, April 29. To be played at Manchester. Again, only one team entered.

## THE FANATIC

The facsimile poem reproduced on the opposite page was written by G. K. CHESTERTON for the first *Toc H Annual*, published in 1920. Its message is as relevant as when it was penned and today there is a particular aptness in the reference to our 'clockwork' swords. G.K.C. was at St. Paul's School with Tubby's brother, Jack, who founded Toc H in the Federated Malay States.

## The Fanatic..

We have thought long enough & talked long enough  
And the world is weary of words.  
And the Sword itself is clockwork now  
A sullen wheel of swords.

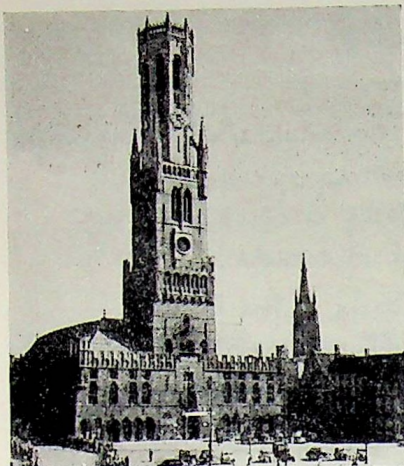
Like sickening steams before the sun  
The fumes of culture creep -  
And the wise men laugh more sadly  
Than the strong men used to weep.

And I know that clouds are alive & cling  
And the dusty path is rough  
But I know that the least grain of the dust  
Has never been panned enough

A single grain of the drifting dust  
If we took it & loved it well  
We could blow the trumpet north & South  
And fight with the world & hell

And find the truth of an ancient thing  
Lost on the oldest lyre  
It was the Man who burnt his Ships  
Who set the Thames on fire

P. K. Weston



The famous Belfry of Bruges

**M**ARCH 30-APRIL 4 (Easter). MIXED PARTY, led by REX CALKIN and RAY FABLES. Apply to RAY FABLES at 276 Dunstable Road, Luton, Beds. *Now fully booked.*

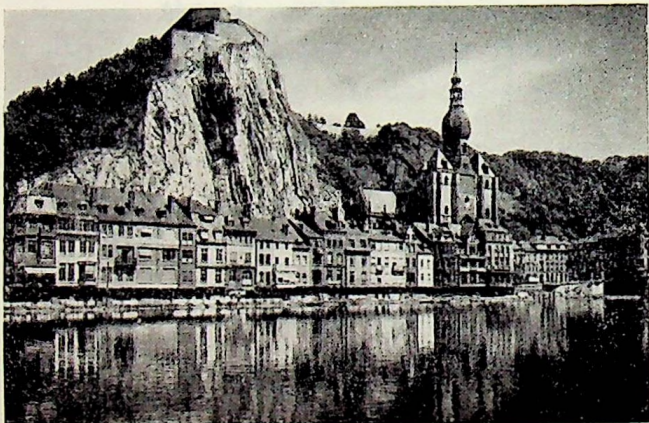
**M**AY 13-23. WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, SOUTH EASTERN REGION. MIXED PARTY including Bruges and Belgian Ardennes. Miss RUBY REEF, 188 Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

**M**AY 25-29. OVERSEAS MEMBERS. GEOFF MARTIN, Overseas Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

**J**UNE 2-5. MIXED PARTY including coach trip to Bruges, Ypres, etc. Cost about £11. Leave London late Friday. CHARLES JACKSON, 23 Beechwood Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

**J**ULY 1-8. KIN AREA. MIXED party including Bruges and Belgium. CYRIL CATTELL, Highfield Road, E

**J**ULY 15-22. MIXED party including Bruges. CLARK, Toc H Headquarters, 15 Trinity Square, L



# Going Places,

## PARTIES TO POPPERING BELGIUM AND HOLLAND

**A** NUMBER OF PARTIES ON have been planned for friends visiting the Continent. Most of those listed here are programmes: a stay in Bruges, Ardennes, or further afield in Belgium. Some of them culminate with a stay at the Old House, Poperinge. Individuals should be made known to the Old House Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, 15, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

Further details of any of the above can be obtained by writing direct to the leader. A number of places are limited and booking is essential.

◀ In the Ardennes: Drul and Dinant. In Holland: The Ool Centre at



# 1961

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The garden at the Old House, Poperinge

AND SUSSEX  
PARTY, inclu-  
sian Ardennes,  
t. Catherines,  
Grinstead.

PARTY, inclu-  
Leader: JACK  
adquarters, 15  
don, E.C.3.

**A**UGUST 19-SEPT. 2. MIXED  
PARTY, week's visit to Hol-  
land, followed by second week in  
Belgium; five days in Bruges and  
two days at the Old House.  
Details from F. G. CHESWORTH,  
Editorial Office, Toc H Head-  
quarters, 15 Trinity Square, Lon-  
don, E.C.3.

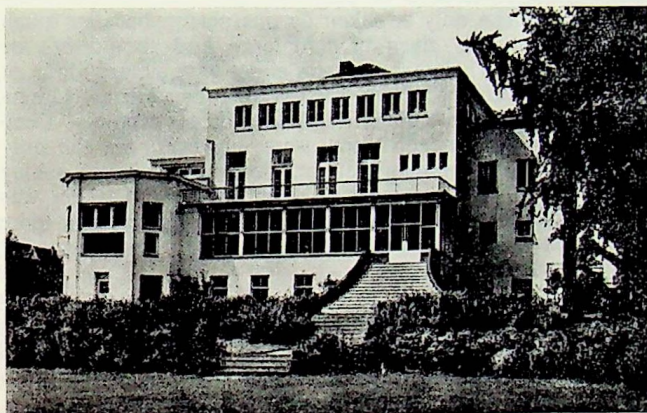
**A**UGUST 21-28. WOMEN'S ASSO-  
CIATION NORTH WESTERN  
REGION. Mrs. A. DAVIDSON, 8  
Mill Brow, Kirby Lonsdale, Carn-  
forth, Lancs.

**S**EPTEMBER 2-9 (Hop Fair Week-  
end). MIXED PARTY. Leader:  
Miss SHIRLEY JONES, Toc H Head-  
quarters, 15 Trinity Square,  
London, E.C.3. For weekend or  
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# World Chain of Light

JACK DAVIES

Writing from New Zealand, where he is now a member of 'Domex' and Chairman of Wellington Branch, Jack reviews his thoughts after the Vigil held there

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT may be worth recording now, especially as there was the innovation of asking for personal and Branch concerns to be offered in prayer during the Vigil on December 11 and 12. The response, as was expected, was varied but generally showed a deep appreciation of what was intended. Some units mistook the request and sent merely a superficial account of their ideas about the world situation generally. Others saw in it, as we intended, an opportunity for a simple but sincere offering to God of those things about which men and women are perplexed; their personal difficulties; their corporate concerns; the needs of people they seek to serve through Toc H.

## Moving experience

There were over 200 letters covering requests for petitions. The writer was privileged to receive them and to transcribe the relevant material into the various 'Hours' of Praise, Prayer and Petition, which members used during the 24-hour Vigil. For him it was a moving experience to be given so many frank revelations of personal need; the responsibility for this task can only be taken by one person because much of the material is given in confidence and should not be widely shared. The actual prayers either gave names alone or asked for specific concerns for anonymous persons. Others were, of course, set forth frankly without disguise. Deep personal and private problems were, however, not the only things shown by the many letters; there was a sincere asking for guidance in preserving and extending Toc H; there was a social conscience actively aware of community needs; there was a conviction that Toc H itself is truly an instrument for God's work.

The members of Toc H in Wellington who kept watch were keenly aware that they were offering to God's care very real needs. There was a sense that somehow kinship had taken on a clearer dimension and that the shadowy figures standing

around their Lamps in some far corner of the earth had come into focus more sharply because we had been given the thoughts and aspirations of men and women to whom we could give names. It was an innovation which has been only partially a success in that not all units felt that there was something they could offer, but we do believe that those who did send in petitions were themselves brought much more closely into the spirit of the World Chain than they would otherwise have been. We in turn were immeasurably helped to make a real act of prayer. For some of us it does become easier to pray when we carry into God's presence the burdens of other men and women, knowing that they have entrusted them to our care.

### Sense of kinship


It was that sense of kinship, suddenly become real, which has been our abiding impression. The purpose of the World Chain is to bring home to members their relationship with each other round the world. In Wellington we have been made aware of that once more, but this time rather more vividly. We are indebted to those who wrote to us and made our Theme "Toc H—A Reconciling Society" even more significant to us. We have been shown human suffering, nobly endured; we have been given a glimpse of work done by Toc H on heroic scale; humility which made us ashamed of our own lack; courage without end and purpose to achieve. All these things given to us and in sharing we have taken on something of their values so that, we pray, we have become just a little better.

Finally: thank you all for your confidences and for the honour it has truly been to have taken part in the World Chain in just this way.



*This year* on Monday, December 11, the World Chain of Light will be started from 'Dor Knap' in Worcestershire and observed in turn westward of there as far as the Pacific at 9 p.m. by local time. The observances will continue from New Zealand westward at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, until the Chain is completed at 'Dor Knap' and the Vigil kept in the Chapel there throughout the twenty-four hours will be ended.





## FROM ALL PARTS direct from areas

### BEDS. & HERTS.

from Ray Fabes

Our three reporters from STEVENAGE, on the Albemarle Report week-end at Dor Knap put all their ideas over well, on their first time out, and after a long journey to LEIGHTON BUZZARD. The Branch there, as well as being actively interested in the new Youth Club, have also decorated an Elderly People's Home, and three of their members have had children from the local Home in their own homes to spend Christmas.

The following story is told by the Chairman of RICKMANSWORTH: "Our Branch picked up a 'Cri de cour' just before Christmas. The Housing Committee of the British Council for Refugees had taken a small house and had arranged to put into it a Hungarian family of four (and a fifth nearly due), which was being turned out of a one-room home in Paddington, before Christmas.

A mixed medley of small repairs called for immediate attention—broken this and jammed that and missing something else, a rickety garden gate (to keep toddlers off the street), to be patched up and rehung, etc. Small jobs, but time was very short and there was no electric light. A reconnaissance in force on Saturday afternoon was followed by a mass attack by torch and candlelight on Monday evening; even the most helpless (i.e. the present writer) could run for a tool or hold a candle to the workman; and behold the deed was done. Then, anti-climax! We heard that the family had patched up their trouble at Paddington and would not be coming.

Never mind, we understand more refugees are coming to England next March and the house and its emergency repairs will be needed then, if not earlier."

Of all the Christmas highlights, parties, carols, etc., the major achievement has certainly been the record of over 550 parcels being distributed in North Bucks District by STONY STRATFORD and WOLVERTON Branches to the sick, needy and elderly (those over 70), and I am assured nearly everyone was a personally known case.

A *Lamp Burns* will be in evidence in the Area five times during the next period and we trust many new faces will be seeing it.

It has only just come to our notice that when young Tony, from WELWYN GARDEN CITY, who is blind, went into hospital and a member offered to read the JOURNAL to him he replied 'Oh I've seen that'. It seems Tony, who is also very deaf, is first on the list of the JOURNAL transcribed into Braille that circulates, as his idea, among the Southern Counties. So with special thanks from the Branch and all in the Area may we express our appreciation through this medium to the Hon. Lady Norah Hewitt in Hampshire, for the service she renders Tony and his friends.

## SOUTH WALES

from C. T. Edwards

220 old age pensioners of Cefn Coed and Trefechan sat down to the annual dinner provided by members of CEFN COED Branch. This was the twenty-fifth occasion, and also the jubilee of the Branch in Cefn Coed. The dinner was held at Teddington's canteen, kindly lent for the occasion, and the meal was followed by a programme of entertainment and community singing, one of the entertainers being an 87-year-old pensioner.



*Tonbridge Free Press*

Tonbridge members joined with the Lions Club in playing a barrel-organ to raise funds for their Christmas appeal.

## KENT

from Cyril Cattell

Some Branches have an almost uncanny knack of doing anything they undertake well. Such is the case at ASHFORD. This is the 'mother' Branch of the S.E. Kent District and for a long period of years Ashford has steadily and consistently made possible new units out from the centre of the town. Often this has meant losing some of their best members to the new venture but always this has been taken as a challenge to make good the deficiency by bringing in fresh recruits. What makes some well-established Branches like this one seize any opportunity to extend Toc H in their neighbourhood whilst others equally well established seldom look beyond their own front door? How easy it is to say that conditions in our place—wherever that may be—are more difficult. How much harder to cut out the humbug and get down to a spot of exploration in some nearby locality! Toc H is every bit as good as we say it is. Is it not then very near to selfishness for us to keep it to ourselves when with enthusiasm and imagination on our part a new unit—providing a vital experience for fresh men—could be started in the town or village down the road from us?

## **NOTTS. & DERBY**

from Les Wheatley

A feature of the WORKSOP Branch annual dinner in December which the Mayor and Mayoress attended was the large number of youngsters present. These formed quite a hefty chunk of the 70/60 present. This is reflected in the Branch itself where the young 'uns deal with the old 'uns extraordinarily well. CHESTERFIELD Branch took a half-hour's tape recording of carols sung by a local choir to old folk rest centres at Christmas. At Shardlow Hospital, members and friends of LONG EATON and SANDIACRE Branches (and the W.A. Branches) did a carol-singing tour of the wards. Following a meeting called by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, a Branch of the Cheshire Homes was formed, on which Toc H and the Women's Association are represented, in support of the new Cheshire Home to be opened in West Bridgford. There is a branch of the Association there already on which WEST BRIDGFORD Branch is represented. A firm link has been established between STAPLEFORD and EDINBURGH. A member of Stapleford went to Edinburgh for a serious operation. As soon as they knew of it, Edinburgh adopted Percy, and the kindness they have shown him and his wife on her visits is a tremendous tribute to Toc H up there. Thank you, Edinburgh, for all you have done and are still doing. A visit to the Area by John Callf at the end of April, followed by an Area Festival in BAKEWELL on May 6, is part of what promises to be a busy year in the Area.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE**

from George Lee

Accounts from so many Branches of Christmas Parties for old and young, of carol singing and of the distribution of logs and food parcels or vouchers to the elderly, presents a full and interesting picture of more Branches than previously seeking to bring more Christmas cheer to those less fortunate than themselves. No doubt the same picture will be painted in all other Areas, but in Lincolnshire, in looking back on the pre-Christmas efforts, one can perhaps see a trend which promises to make 1961 an exciting year for the Area at large. That trend is in some unusual 'twists' given by some Branches to the normal ordinary jobs. Suffice perhaps to quote one instance, that at ANCASTER, a Branch which, just a year ago, was as deep in the doldrums as any Branch could be, and yet in the past month has initiated no less than five new, active, young members, and each month has organised some local event for local charities or the Family Purse, in which the whole community could join.

Just prior to Christmas, like so many other Branches, they went carol singing, but realising that their own singing was not so hot they decided to accompany the carols with the door-to-door sale of hot chestnuts! They fitted out a first-class roasting machine for the job, and even though, at times, one of the lads had to dash up and down the street with it to create a draught, they not only succeeded in warming folks hearts with their singing and hot chestnuts, but cheered themselves heartily by collecting for the Family Purse. The secret for the future then seems to lie not in bemoaning the dearth of new jobs but the realisation that many new twists can be applied to many of the old jobs making them all-exciting once again. We take this opportunity of wishing all fellow members everywhere a happy and progressive year of activities.





*Croydon Advertiser*

Some of the 270 old age pensioners entertained at a dinner and party given by New Addington Branch.

## WESTERN

from Johnnie MacMillan

The Area Centre is proving to be a useful place for parties—the University group and the Guinea Pig group found that their respective parties were successful. The TOC H JOINT SERVICES UNIT also entertained some forty old folks at the Area Centre.

The NORTH and SOUTH BRISTOL Teams met together to discuss with an expert the question of forming a new Branch at the Centre. to be made up, it is hoped, of a number of West Indians. The Area Centre is in the heart of a large section of these good folk, and, as someone said, "a coloured and colourless Branch would be valuable to all concerned".

GEOFF PERKINS, Bristol North District Team Secretary, has left Bristol to take up a post with BELRA in Nigeria. Many members in Bristol and beyond turned up at a social evening to wish Geoff. his lady and their two children, Godspeed and all happiness in their new tasks.

The Get-togethers arranged for the whole Area are going well. and some stimulating gatherings and discussions are taking place. Host Branches are taking care and giving thought to their guests. much sharing of fellowship and enjoyment is evident, and Hosts are warmed by this much more than by votes of thanks.

The number of members covenanting their Branch contributions is increasing and the Family Purse should, it is hoped. show an appreciable similarity.

Several Districts are sharing their week-ends at Dor Knap with other Areas, and the first of these with Beds. & Herts. is keenly awaited.

## MARCHES

from T. Romanis

WEM Branch has presented an engraved Silver Cup to its Carnival in memory of the late Leonard Butler, who was a founder member of the Branch and a member of the Carnival Committee.

SHREWSBURY Branch and friends had the pleasure of inviting Miss Sheila Foster along to an open meeting at St. Michael's Parish Hall, to hear a first-hand account of her experiences of an Easter Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, illustrated with over eighty coloured slides.

Last month WELLINGTON Branch held a New Year Supper and Social with their friends.

## WEST YORKSHIRE

from Ron Smith

In Dewsbury there is an organisation called the Dewsbury and District League of Friendship, comprising voluntary organisations in the town whose object is to erect a centre for use by the physically handicapped. Toc H had representation in the early stages and it was their suggestion that a barrel organ might bring in the money. In August, 1958, the organ started its work, and on every Saturday afternoon since that time, except when there is a flag day in the town, music has been dispensed to the shoppers. A job with help from time to time of friends of the Branch, and the present total collected of £603 is indeed a magnificent effort by DEWSBURY Branch.

The attention of SETTLE Branch has for some time been focused on the plight of refugees, the belief being strongly held that the greatest service we could give being the sponsoring and rehabilitation of a refugee family in this Area. Due to the very limited membership of the Branch it was felt that the project was rather ambitious for them to go it alone, so other local organisations were contacted and subsequently addressed by Miss Jean Owtram, the Settlement Officer of the British Council for Aid to Refugees. Miss Owtram was most informative and frank, and explained that in her opinion this area was not an ideal locality, due to the lack of contact which the refugee family may expect with fellow Nationals in times of real crisis. Under these circumstances, the Management Committee which was formed resolved not to support the settlement of a refugee family in this area, but to support the cause of Refugees with financial assistance.

Activities such as whist drives, dances, film shows, hostel visits and jumble sales have continued at WORTLEY-DE-LEEDS during the winter months, the largest undertaking being a house-to-house appeal for funds to help provide parcels, parties, outings, etc., for some 180 old folk in the area. This was carried out during three weeks of the worst weather we have had for some time and we were all very thankful when the last of the 3,500-odd houses had been visited. Up to the time of writing the total is only a little below the £112 collected last year.

Sunday, December 11, was, of course, a red-letter day for all Toc H Branches and we were no exception. In an effort to put over the story of Toc H to the friends in Wortley and District we invited these friends to an 'at home' held at Lower Wortley Methodist Chapel, where each member of the Branch Executive told something of the aims, ideals and activities of Toc H. This was followed

by a service in the Chapel in which the Minister, the Rev. G. F. Pottinger, and the Vicar of St. John's Church, Wortley, the Rev. R. Scupham Ossleton, shared the pulpit. During the service our Pilot, Eddie Jenner, read the message from our friends in New Zealand, and at 9 p.m. precisely our Chairman took Light. Altogether, with members and friends, over 100 were present.



Members of Hatherleigh Branch with the Christmas tree in their Town Square.

## SOUTH WESTERN

from Gilbert Francis

Possibly the job which has caused more comment locally than any other in the last year is that of ILMINSTER Branch in assuming a certain responsibility for the old Market House in the Town Square. During the summer this venerable building was supplied with window boxes for all its surrounding walls and ornamental tubs for the entrances, the whole filled with good soil and mould gathered from local woods and supporting a magnificent display of flowers. These have been cared for and replaced through the months and have given a great deal of pleasure to old and young alike, whether they be local folk or visitors to the town. When Christmas came the Market House became a mass of greenery and berries, with a crib portraying the true meaning of Christmas as its centre-piece, the whole surrounded by twinkling lights and Christmas trees. Now, with the New Year, plans are in hand for displays of successive spring flowers until by the summer the wheel will have turned full circle. That constant care is necessary on the part of the Branch cannot be denied, but that that care is not wasted is evident in the joy on people's faces as for a moment they shed their cares and enjoy the sheer simple beauty of flowers.

Looking back over Christmas and New Year I am once again astounded at all that was done to help those needy folk around us. Distinctions are invidious, but to all those of you who made such efforts, and to those friends of the Family whose generosity made your efforts possible, the elderly and needy folk give their blessings and their thanks.





W. A. Meredith, Southfields, S.W. 18.

Patients and staff of the Westmoor Convalescent Home entertained to a tea party and concert by Putney Park members.

## SUSSEX

from Cyril Cattell

Branches in **SOUTHDOWN** District are taking a lively interest in a new project started recently in Brighton. This is known as **FRIENDSHIP HOUSE** and is a Home for overseas students. At the present time there are about 240 overseas students from thirty-four countries in Brighton, and this number will be much increased in the near future when the University opens there. To provide such a home, where these young people can live in a Christian atmosphere, is excellent and one can only hope that this first step will be quickly followed by local folk making friends with the students wherever possible, and certainly by visits to them in Friendship House. This is the sort of contribution our members can make to this exciting development.

In another context it might be worth mentioning that it was publicly stated recently that in a certain part of London where many West Indians now live, the majority who had been in this country for upwards of three years, though in many cases regular attenders at the local church of their choice, had never been invited into an English home, Friendship House, Brighton, can never provide in quite the same way what we can in our homes. But we've got to make the first move—it's no good leaving it to someone else. What about it?

## SOUTHERN

from Fred Brooker

Those who have had the good fortune to be in on the start of a new group, will know something about the things that have been happening to the "Avenue" Southampton group during the past few months. The excitement, and adventure of a new experiment, the getting to know new friends, the finding that everyone within the group has got his own special contribution to make, in accordance with his various gifts and talents, finding what a rewarding thing it is to have the chance of serving others, bringing new folk into the fellowship.

The group meet in a room over the Garage at Mark V, and consists of Marksmen and folk from the surrounding district. Also other Marksmen not in the group can always be relied on for special jobs.

One of the first jobs was to help to organise a party of young folk, known as the Southampton Samaritans, who have pledged themselves to help old and needy people by redecorating their homes for them. A proper committee has now been formed, the Chairman and Treasurer are members of the group, and a first-rate Secretary has been found locally.



Members of 'Avenue' group sorting toys.

An appeal for toys for distribution at Christmas met with a wonderful response. Many of the toys were in good order, but others had to be painted and repaired before they could be sent out. Decorating the Children's Hospital for Christmas, and joining with the Marksmen in singing Carols in aid of Talbot House Christmas Fund. But most important of all, their visits to an old lady, living alone, who has only

been able to get about in a wheel chair for the past seventeen years. At Christmastide they decorated her room, and one or other of the group look in to see her at least once a week.

Now in this new year, new plans are being made: the removing of a partition to make a larger meeting place; a new Programme for the weekly get-together; and the seeking out of new needs to serve. We wish them, and all new groups, great happiness in all that they will be doing during 1961.

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# In Changing Times

Dr. JOSEPH MOFFETT

Here, slightly abridged, is the address given by the Rev. Joseph Moffett, D.D., of the Church of Scotland, at the Parks District Rededication Service held on October 1

I WENT TO France as a Chaplain to the Forces in 1915, the year in which Toc H was founded. Anyone who has had experience of the horrors of the trench warfare of those days cannot but have the highest regard for the magnificent work done for our men in Talbot House. For those who had had a spell in the Salient, amid a veritable hell of mud and blood and death, the experience of coming back for a few days' rest and of receiving the warmth and welcome, of sharing anew the spiritual atmosphere of Talbot House, was indeed a heaven-sent gift. No one who ever had that experience could ever doubt that the strength and inspiration which sustained the workers in that haven of refuge came from the Spirit of God. The Divine Presence was surely there, upholding and protecting in their Christ-like service those heroic souls who carried on the work. Theirs was indeed a unique and note-worthy record of valorous service.

## Unselfish Service

No less remarkable has been the wonderful growth and world-wide expansion of the Movement in the years that followed 1918. I have just finished reading the biography of 'Tubby' Clayton. It is a wonderful epic of Christian service, of a life lived for the good of others, and dedicated to the service of God. No one can read it without benefit, nor fail to get inspiration from it. It breathes that spirit of selfless devotion to a great Cause which inspired its Founder and gave direction to all his work. He was, and is, a man of stupendous faith, whole-hearted in his loyalty to the Master who he has ever been delighted to serve.

It is a spirit which is urgently needed in the world today. We are passing through one of the great periods of human history, and, like all such periods, it is marked by profound changes in the outer circumstances of man's life, moral and spiritual, as well as social and political. When I think, for



example, of the London I knew fifty years ago, with its fascinating little alleys and by-ways and narrow streets, of which there is scarcely a vestige left, and compare it with the City of today with its towering box-like buildings, all of the same featureless pattern, merely copies of something seen on the Continent or in America, I realise that a profound and radical change has taken place.

### **Eternal principles**

I realise, too, that that change is a reflection of other changes more profound in our moral and spiritual outlook. One recognises, of course, that changes must come, but the danger is that man is tempted to think that because he can alter the appearance of a great city like London, he can alter even those eternal principles upon which the whole structure of our civilisation rests. There are indeed dangerous tendencies inherent in a period of change such as this, and they concern, not only the outward appearance of our towns and cities, but also the moral and spiritual standards on which alone a secure and healthy society can be founded.

Impressed by his new-found ability to make changes in material things, man all too readily is tempted to think that he is capable of taking over the control of his own destiny and of altering to suit himself those eternal laws which God has laid down for the right ordering of our life. There is perhaps no greater fallacy than just this vain imagination that man is master of his fate and can do as he will with those moral and spiritual values without which our life is meaningless—"a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury".

Even a casual study of history reveals the fact that while in the course of the centuries there have been changes beyond all calculation, the reality of a Supreme Power, of a God whose guiding hand has always rested on human affairs and whose authority cannot be evaded or defied, remains unchanged and unchangeable. The gravest peril of our time is that of thinking that we no longer need God, and that we can get on jolly well without Him.

But there is nothing very new in that. I remember after the first World War there was a clever Frenchman who wrote a cynical little book in which he described himself as conducting God to the edge of His Universe, thanking Him for His past services, and politely bowing Him out, because man had no further need of Him. That kind of stupid thinking has mani-

fested itself time and again. But man has ever had to come back to the consciousness of his need of God, and has had to acknowledge that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it".

Another unfortunate consequence of the changes which are taking place is the putting of value on the wrong things. We tend to neglect the spiritual, and over-emphasise the material things in life, to be impressed by those things which are merely earthly and temporal, and to forget those moral principles which are timeless and eternal. The lure of wealth, the lust for power, the greed of gain, these are the motives which drive men on, in feverish haste, to secure those prizes they deem most worth possessing; while integrity, and purity and brotherly-kindness are not considered worth defending and preserving. Yet without them, a peaceful society is impossible, and security becomes but an empty dream.

It is here that your great organisation can play a vital part, if it remains true to the example and spirit of him who founded it. He and his fellow-workers had a true appreciation of those higher values which alone make life worth living. At the cost of Christ-like self-sacrifice, they maintained them throughout those dark and terrible years when "the lamps had all gone out in Europe", and men staggered and stumbled through the black night of hate and fear. It was their faith and courage that kept the lamp of hope alight in men's hearts, and it is your duty to keep that lamp burning with ever-increasing brightness to guide others along the path that leads to "the land of heart's desire".

There is another feature of this strange period in history which distresses me: it is the habit we have got into of thinking of man in the mass, and, in consequence, a lack of appreciation of the intrinsic worth of the individual. It probably originated in the mass production of machine-made goods—another of the great changes of our time. Stage by stage, hand-work and the craftsman's skill have been eliminated, and man himself reduced to a mere cog in a vast machine which can turn out the same product in a fraction of the time taken by the craftsman. Little wonder that there is unrest and discontent in the industrial world, for men have not only lost their skill but also the joy and pride they once took in their work and so, to no small extent, have lost their self-respect. And when they lose that, they also lose their respect for their fellow-men.

Q We must somehow get back this lost sense of respect for the value of the individual, of the soul for which Christ died, and so re-discover a sense of the sanctity of human life as the gift of God, and with it a sense of our responsibility for the well-being of our fellow-men.

There are two directions in which this re-discovery of the worth of the individual is sorely needed. One is in our attitude towards our old folk, who are so often pushed aside and regarded as almost valueless. I have had nearly fifty years of London ministry, and if anywhere in the world an awakened respect for the individual is needed, it is needed here in this great lonely city. Case after case I could give you of solitary old men and women living in conditions that are heartbreaking, for whom life is just one weary week of existence after another without light or joy. When you call on them, as I have done, you knock on the door and wait. You may have to knock again before you hear weary feet shuffling across the floor and the door is opened. There stands the old lady, world-weary and sad, thinking perhaps that you are the gas-man or the rent collector.

But the moment she realises who it is and knows that you have come just because you are interested in her welfare, the aged face lights up and the dull eye kindles with a welcome as she bids you come in. It is then you know that your visit is a red-letter event in a week, or a month, of dejection and loneliness, and that your reward will come from Him who said "inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, ye did it unto Me".

### **Sense of responsibility**

It is at the other end of the scale of life that there is needed this awakened sense of our responsibility for the 'human touch' in our care for those whose only claim upon us is their need, and that is in the work among our youth. There is much talk about youthful delinquency and the many problems presented by the irresponsibility of the boys and girls of our generation.

Various causes have been at work—broken homes, inadequate parental control, high wages too easily earned, lack of sufficient playing-fields, and so forth; but above all a shortage of good public-spirited men and women who are prepared to give at least some part of their time to helping with the work of Youth Clubs and other organisations where they can get alongside the rising generation and guide them



to a right use of the gifts and talents which God has given them. If more of us took an interest in them, showed a little more tolerance of their fun and their exuberant spirits, extended to them the 'human touch', we might well see a generation arising of whom we would be proud, and who would be proud of the good that they could do and the service they could render. For, let us remember, if we are sincerely desirous of seeing a better world, it will only be realised by creating better men and better women who will play their parts in the happier world that is yet to be.

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## A Branch Log Competition

JOHN S. PERKINS

ON NOVEMBER 23, 1960, Huddersfield District held its first competition for the best Branch Log. The origin of the competition was due to the District being presented with a trophy for competition, in memory of a Toc H member, ERIC STEAD. Eric was a founder member of the Kirkburton Branch; he joined the Elder Brethren earlier this year, after a long illness. His mother generously gave a sum of money to the Branch to provide some kind of memorial for him. Kirkburton Branch, in their turn, offered to provide a trophy for competition within the Huddersfield District.

Eric was secretary of Kirkburton Branch and had also been secretary of the 'Holdem Branch' which used to travel up and down Yorkshire taking a complete and model Toc H meeting with it in order to help the weak and struggling units. The 'Holdem' unit was composed of members from various Branches and it had its own officers. Their meetings had a full agenda which always included the reading of the branch log, which, although imaginary, was carefully drawn up in order to express the essence of a good Toc H log. Eric Stead was the author of this, and there was no one better than he.

When the District Team discussed the form of the competition for this trophy, the Eric Stead Memorial Plaque, it was agreed by all that the most fitting memorial would be one involving Branch Logs.

The date of the competition was fixed to coincide with a Huddersfield District Team 'At Home', which is held twice a year. This is an occasion when all the members of the District are invited to the District Team meeting, at which the business part is contracted in order to devote a large part of the evening to a Part II.

We were very fortunate in getting as our judges, JOHN MADDOCK, a former West Yorkshire Area Secretary, now retired; GODFREY PRESTON of Shipley Branch and honorary West Yorkshire Area Treasurer; and LEN RIVETT, a joint Yorkshire Area Padre. Eight Branches out of eleven in the District took part. The Log, which was read, had to be of an actual Branch meeting held during the year ending October 31, 1960. The Judges awarded points under the following categories: entertainment value (15 pts.); log appearance (5 pts.); English (10 pts.); conciseness (10 pts.); style (10 pts.). The manner in which the Log was read was discounted.

After a very close tie, for the standard was good, the judges finally decided in favour of Huddersfield Branch, who were represented by BILL CHAPMAN. The trophy was presented by HERBERT SNOW, chairman of Kirkburton Branch. Bill, in his reply, dealt not only with the value of the log as a record of a Branch meeting, but also as a means of ensuring that the unit's obligations were not forgotten, particularly in regard to jobs. It was important that there should be a reminder week by week of the outstanding items until these were dealt with. In other words, the log should act as the Branch's conscience.

In conclusion, all those of us who were present would say that we came away with a fuller appreciation of the value of the Branch Log—we even made a few converts. This competition will undoubtedly lead to better Logs, which means better Branches of Toc H, and what finer memorial could Eric Stead have?

*Here is the winning Log, recording a meeting of the Huddersfield Branch.*

MINUTES of the 1,719th\* Branch Meeting held on Thursday, September 29, 1960, at 15a, High Street, Huddersfield.

Arthur Wainwright occupied the chair.

Apologies were received from Charlie Avery and Arthur Nelson. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

\* The first Secretary numbered the Meetings and when he retired the numbers were so high no succeeding Secretary dared to stop. Now, no one wants to.

George Booth asked if any members had lost forks after the Guest Night at which fish and chips were eaten as delicately as if at a Rotary Meeting. It seems that George returned more forks to Bannisters Cafe than he had borrowed. The mystery remains unsolved; all members being fairly honest or rather slow-witted.

The Secretary read a letter from George Gosling who sent his best wishes to the Branch and returned ten shillings to a grateful Secretary. Branch Secretaries sending good wishes to the Branch may do so for even less than ten shillings.

The Pilot reported that Jimmy Cliffe has given him the name of a Mr. Mills who has had contact with Toc H. Mr. Mills is at present in hospital but John Roberts hopes to bring him in to the Branch as soon as he is well enough to stand the shock. John also asked for an Executive Meeting to consider probationers who are ready to be called to a higher plane.

John Perkins gave a report on the recent District Meeting. Very few Branches were prepared to accept the proposed insurance scheme. Terms are now to be sought for individual Branches. The Literary Shield is now ready. The Chairman explained the origin and purpose of the shield to those who missed previous announcements and to the earnest plodders. One brave soul asked if this meant that members can now criticise the Minutes. The answer is that those who know the way should be up at the front. The District Re-dedication Service will be held at Newsome Church on Sunday, October 16, 1960. Padre Facey is hoping to start Toc H in Marsden. Who knows, perhaps the locals will build a wall round it.\*\*

John Roberts then gave details of Hospital Broadcasts, including the broadcast of the presentation to Anita Lonsborough and the football at Norwich.

George Booth who has let the small room to the Scouts and the large room on Saturday morning to a Psychologist, received permission to do so. If the Psychologist is a psychie-ologist he may test the aura of the room. Bill Chapman, who works with his Missus, will keep the result a secret for the sake of Toc H members everywhere.

At this point George took light with twelve present.

This evening Sidney Taylor entertained the Branch with Criss Cross Quiz. Two teams competed and the results, but fortunately not the language, appeared on the most ingenious gadget which Sidney had brought along. It appears that frogs have teeth. It also appeared that there was a sting in the tail of some other questions, although John Wilson did noble deeds with his 'wimmin'. It is not true that Professor Ricard explored the stratosphere on his little bicycle or that the gauge of the Russian railway system is 00 Hornby, but members were delighted with this novel programme. Well done Sidney, who was of course a temporary refugee from Lindley Branch.

The Chairman expressed the pleasure of the members and Lawrence Beaumont closed the meeting with Home Going Prayers.

*Signed: A. WAINWRIGHT,  
Chairman.*

\*\* Padre Facey, Huddersfield District Padre, recently became Vicar of Marsden. Local legend is that residents built a wall round a cuckoo to try and keep it in.



**Journal Smalls** Small Advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). Editorial Office: Toc H, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

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A full list of Toc H publications is available from Headquarters. The following books are suggested as a start:

## ABOUT AIMS AND METHODS

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